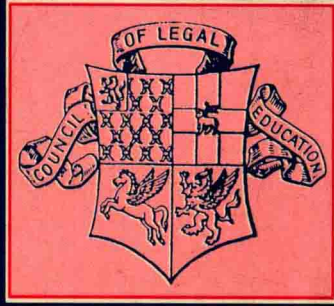


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Foreword

These Manuals are published in conjunction with the Vocational Course for the Bar which is run at the Inns of Court School of Law. The course, which was introduced in 1989, was specifically designed to equip students with the procedural and evidential knowledge and the practical skills they will need to start their professional careers. It is gratifying to find that this course has been greeted as a major step forward in legal vocational training, and that it has attracted substantial interest.

These Manuals have been produced specifically to support this course, and they have been written both by teaching staff at the Inns of Court School of Law and by a range of members of the Bar. The Manuals are designed to cover all the areas of skill and knowledge which research showed were important for the new practitioner, and the emphasis throughout is on the practical, professional approach. Although the Manuals are produced for a specific course, their range is such that they should be of interest to all those concerned with legal training.

The Manuals are revised annually, to keep them up-to-date, and to improve content with the benefit of experience and of the many useful comments made by practitioners and by students. The development of legal vocational training can only be an ongoing process for all those concerned in achieving and maintaining high standards, and further comments are always welcome. Such comments may be addressed either to the Dean or the Course Director at the Inns of Court School of Law.

The enthusiasm of the staff of Blackstone Press Ltd and their efficiency in arranging the production and publication of these Manuals is much appreciated.

*The Hon. Mr Justice Phillips
Chairman of The Council of Legal Education
September 1993*

Introduction

Virtually everybody who picks up this Manual for the first time will have had previous, perhaps considerable, experience of the study of the law. However, since there is no standardisation of legal education, it is quite possible that many students will, so far, have approached the law from a purely academic premise. Others may have followed courses which have a more practical orientation. Both have their advantages and drawbacks.

The vocational course taught under the auspices of the Council of Legal Education is, however, designed to prepare the aspiring barrister to meet the disciplines of everyday professional life at the Bar, and this Manual has been prepared with that purpose in mind.

This Manual deals with many of the major aspects of civil litigation with which an aspiring practitioner needs to be familiar. It must be stressed that this Manual is intended to be a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the 'White Book' and the 'Green Book' — the practitioner's 'bibles' on civil procedure and practice in the High Court and County Court respectively. It is essential that you become familiar with both these works, both for the purposes of this course, and for use in pupillage and then practice.

What then is the purpose of this work? It is hoped that it will provide a means of understanding the concepts of civil litigation, rather than a mere statement of its constituent 'nuts and bolts'. The chapters of this Manual are designed with the hope, as has been said, of promoting an understanding of fundamental principles involved, so that the various Orders and Rules which govern civil litigation can the more easily be digested.

This new edition has been substantially revised and rewritten, not merely to ensure that its contents are as up-to-date as possible, but also in order to provide more detailed and comprehensive coverage of the topics discussed. It is thus hoped that this work will continue to provide an invaluable source of reference well after the (hopefully successful) conclusion of the Bar Vocational Course.

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